FIRE SAFETY BULLETIN

Heating Season Fire Safety



Department of Environmental Health and Safety — Office of Fire Safety

As the weather cools and winter approaches, following these fire safety tips will ensure a safe environment for all. Whether here at St. John's University or at home, prevention is our best defense against fires.

- Make certain smoke detectors are installed on every level of your home and outside every sleeping area. Install carbon monoxide (CO) detectors outside of all sleeping areas. These detectors should be tested monthly.
- Have your heating systems and chimneys inspected, cleaned, and repaired prior to the heating season.
- Fireplaces and wood-burning stoves should be inspected annually and cleaned as needed. Fireplaces should be fitted with a glass front or a mesh screen to protect against flying sparks.
- Only use space heaters with the **Underwriters Laboratories (UL)** safety listing. The heater should be placed on the floor, away from combustible materials (at lease three feet) and out of high-traffic areas. Never leave the heater unattended, and unplug the unit when going to bed or leaving the house.

Note: *Space heaters are not permitted in any St. John's residential building.*

- If you smell natural gas in your home or apartment, evacuate immediately and use a phone outside to call the proper authorities.
- Halogen light bulbs are not permitted in University buildings.

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